

Friends,

I believe that Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a strong example of the dangers of media consolidation, only exacerbated by their lack of plans for requiring their stations to present balanced opposing views.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line or conforms to the political opinions of fewer and fewer individuals and less of what facilitates the reasoned discourse and varied perspectives necessary to democracy. It's important that local communities have media run by local people and more substantive, local, news.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you,

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